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SRI M. PALANIYANDI : கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் பதில் சொல்லும்போது, இந்தத் திட்டம் நிறைவேறியபிறகு திருச்சியில் ஆரம்பிக்கலாம் என்று கூறினார்கள். திருச்சியில், காவேரியில் சாதாரண ஏழை மக்கள் தான் இப்போது குளிக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே தண்ணீர் குறைவாக வருகிறது. சாக்கடைத் தண்ணீர் அங்கே கலக்கிறது. இதன் காரணமாக காலரா போன்ற நோய்கள் ஏற்படலாம். ஆகவே அங்கேயும் சாக்கடைத் தண்ணீரை விவசாயத்திற்கு உபயோகப்படுத்துவதற்குத் திட்டம் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்பதை அரசாங்கம் நல்ல மனதுடன் கவனிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இந்த நிலைமை திருச்சி நகரத்தில் மட்டுமல்ல, ஜீவநதிகள் பாய்கின்ற எல்லா இடங்களிலும் இதே நிலைமைதான் இருக்கிறது. இதையெல்லாம் அரசாங்கம் பிறகு கவனிக்கவேண்டும்.

Cancer centres

* 3437 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASAMY (on behalf of Sri K. P. GOPALAN) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to open new Cancer centres in the State?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : No, Sir. I may add that facilities for cancer treatment will shortly be made available at Mangalore and Tanjore.

DR. K. B. MENON : May I know if the Hon. Minister has information as to how many radium needles are in possession of the Government and among how many hospitals in the State they are distributed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There are radium needles now at the Barnard Institute of Radiology and at the Hospital for Women and Children. 250 mgms. of radium needles have recently been sent to the Madurai hospital and 250 mgms. of radium needles will shortly be sent to the Mangalore hospital.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Sir, the amount sanctioned in the current year budget for the purchase of a deep X-ray therapeutic apparatus for the Tanjore Headquarters Hospital has not been so far installed in that hospital. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state when this apparatus will be installed there?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Deep X-ray therapeutic apparatus has probably already been installed or will be installed in the very near future. It has been ordered already.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state that there was no proposal to open new Cancer centres. Is it because we have got more centres in the State than what the demand requires?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : We have provision for cancer treatment at the Barnard Institute, General Hospital, at the Hospital for Women and Children, Egmore, and at the Erskine Hospital, Madurai. As I said already, facilities will shortly be made available at Mangalore and Tanjore also

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SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister has figures with him to show how many cancer patients came to Madras for treatment last year and how many of them are from the West Coast?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I cannot give the exact number of patients who have come for treatment. But I may say that there are a good number of cancer cases, particularly in Malabar, on account of the habit of tobacco-chewing.

DR. K. B. MENON : May I know, Sir, the number of patients registered in the City hospitals? On an average, how many in a year are admitted and how many are rejected?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I cannot give the number. But I may say that most of the patients who come for treatment at any of these X-ray institutes are in a very advanced stage. Cancer treatment can be successful only if cases come in early.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Besides these curative methods, has the Hon. Minister in view any preventive methods and, if so, may I know what are the steps he has taken to pursue those preventive methods?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Knowledge of the disease of cancer must spread among the people and also among the medical men. Cancer is sometimes due to chronic irritation. If people know the early signs and symptoms, they can go in for treatment early. There is no method of preventing cancer except by giving up certain habits like tobacco-chewing, excessive smoking and preventing ragged teeth, causing irritation in the mouth and so on.

SRI S. THINAKARASAMY THEVAR : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government will come forward to start a Cancer centre at Madurai City, which is a centre for all the southern districts?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : The hon. Member has not been listening to my answer. I have already said that at Madurai there is a Deep X-ray therapeutic apparatus and 250 mgms. of radium needles have recently been sent there. Cancer treatment is given there. There are 15 beds also available for this purpose.

SRI C. KANDASAMY : May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister has investigated whether cancer can be treated by the indigenous system of medicine and, if so, what are the results of his investigations?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Cancer is treated by deep X-ray, arc of radium needles and surgery. I am not aware of any indigenous system of treatment for cancer.

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SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Sir, in view of the fact that cancer is a horrible disease and a contagious one which requires institutional treatment, may I know whether the Government General Hospital at Madras has got a sufficient number of beds for the patients who go there for treatment?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Cancer is not an infectious disease. In the Madras General Hospital, we have 100 beds for treatment of cancer patients. Also at the Hospital for Women and Children, we have provided 100 beds.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Can the Hon. Minister expatiate on his knowledge of the cancer of the womb, Sir?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Cancer of the womb is very common among women. Particularly 50 per cent of these cases relate to cervix, that is, the neck of the womb. This cancer of the cervix is due to having too many children in many cases.

SRI A. M. RATHNASWAMY : Sir, what are the causes that lead to this cancer disease? Does the Hon. Minister agree with the medical experts who are of opinion that due to smoking cancer of the lung is developed?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Cancer may be due to various causes. Research in this matter is going on at so many places all over the world. There is supposed to be some connection between smoking and lung cancer, though opinion is not quite unanimous.

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : May I know whether it is a fact that more number of women are victims of this cancer disease than the number of men who fall a victim to this disease? 9-20 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir, women suffer from cancer on the uterus and of the cervix. They also suffer from cancer of the breast.

SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR : The Hon. Minister is replying to a number of questions on family planning, leprosy, cancer, etc. Can he arrange for lectures on those subjects in this House, Sir?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Lectures by medical men—Specialists—may be arranged.

SRI M. PALANIANDI : May I know whether it is not a fact that chewing tobacco leads to cancer in the mouth?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, that is what I stated. Chewing tobacco or keeping in the mouth tobacco which is an irritant is supposed to be a provocative cause for mouth cancer.

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